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UNIFICATION

OF NORTH AMERICA

A LAW, A BUSINESS, A DUTY

A PLAN OF CONTINENTAL CONSTRUCTION

PRESENTED THROUGH

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UNIFICATION

OF NORTH AMERICA.

I.

1. All ends in Unity.

2. Man is, on a condensed scale, a perfect world within himself.

Mind and matter, centre and circumference, free with his will but captive of his wants, whole and part, light and mirror, sense and perception, action and actor, Man has been evolving, ever since the dawn of his history, the august purposes of his individual and collective life.

Had he cast his regards inward or outward, earthward or heavenward, Man might have comprehended at a glance what was his lot to discover, to develop, to perpetuate. These firmaments secured by starry nails, those oceans swelled by their rock-bound fountains, this earth so fecund and so beautiful, that smiling family gathered around his hearth — each and all of these creations, though varying in forms, attributes, and functions, had a specific destination: they were gravitating toward a common centre. However, this centripetal direction was

not to be intelligently followed until from ages to ages Man had groped across the entire sphere, mapping on the way the unclaimed portions of his domain. Before he was permitted to grasp the Universe, Man had to grow up to Humanity.

3. Kept awake by the throbbing of the divine law through whose unconscious agency he had appropriated his vast apanage of land and water, Man aspired to assert by Universal domination his mastery over his fellow-beings and over nature. Ambition, self-defense, dynastic requirements, national necessity, religious zeal, God-appointed mission, what names and verbal disguises have not the conquerors used, simply to obey the behests of Unitism?

Recall to mind the great empires of antiquity, their heroes and their legendary exploits and their authentic thirst after more territory. Do you still hear the sobs of Alexander of Macedon in presence of the ocean opposing its unbounded immensities to the boundlessness of his desires?

The Jews, assigning to the voice of their prophets and to the text of their scriptures a literal interpretation, entertained the idea that they were predestined to command the world. The Messiah, so long looked for, was expected to deliver their race and establish Israelitish supremacy of religion and government.

The Roman people, who started from such a small interior point, pushed their conquests to the extremities of the earth of the Ancients! What energy of perseverance! What valor on the battle-field! What wisdom in council!

To the declining power of imperial Rome succeeded the spiritual puissance, which has been transmitted from St. Peter to Pius IX, during eighteen consecutive centuries, and whose dictates and tenets radiate from the Vatican to Polynesia and the continents.

Mahomet and his fanatic successors, Koran and sword in hands, overwhelmed Asia and invaded Europe. Nobody can predict where their propagandism would have stopped, if Charles Martel had not hammered it down in the plains of Southern France.

We meet, amid the débris of the Roman empire, the shadow of Charlemagne covering the Eastern hemisphere.

The barbaric hordes of Gengis-Khan and Tamerlane are arrested at the gates of Europe—the want of vessels to transport them thither frustrating the designs of world-wide conquest cherished by those blood-thirsty commanders.

Russia, born of the principality of Muscow, accepts from Peter Romanoff, the carpenter of her incipient greatness, the mission to subjugate the world ; she spares neither blood nor treasure to execute it according to the letter and spirit of the testament of the illustrious legator.

Napoleon Buonaparte, whose birth-island is anchored in the Mediterranean waters that lave the shores of three continents, sacrificed to his Unitic projects everything that obstructed his march : he blew to atoms, at the mouth of the cannon, the republic that had raised him; he twice overturned his own throne. At St. Helena, his political dreams and his military speculations embrace the world : he reconstructs the Old and organizes the New.

4. Let us now take a trip across the Atlantic, and observe if the same governing motor—that precipitated so often nation against nation in the Oriental hemisphere—obtained also in the new-found lands of the Occidental, or whether Unitism embarked for the first time on board the emigrant vessels from Europe.

Who knows but one, or perhaps several, of the autochtonous races—that have at one period or another treaded the soil of America—exercised a universal authority over the Continent?

May it not be properly contended that, at the ante-European epoch of settlements, the Indian Aborigines—having so many traits of physical and social resemblances that they might be called one nation—occupied the country from one end to the other?

Cristoforo Colombo, guided by the Unitary star, opened America to Spain, the Cabotas to England, Jacques Cartier to France.

Each of these nations attempted in turn to take possession of the entire Continent.

At the beginning of this century, Spain possessed nearly the whole of South America, all Central America, Mexico with her former limits, together with Florida, Louisiana, and establishments, on the Northern Pacific coast, extending as far as the Columbia river. Dry up the Mississippi, and you will find the tomb of De Soto, its discoverer. The Spaniards did not strive to ascend farther north because they delight basking in the equatorial sun rather than affronting the cold blasts of the hyper-tropical zone.

France put her military genius to task in order to suffocate and starve and crush out the English colonies of the seaboard. Who should remain masters of these habitable solitudes, of the French or of the English, such was the real object of this prolonged struggle. All was lost—for, what had cost miles of soldiers and heaps of piasters, La Pompadour estimated at the contemptible value of a few acres of snow. New France was doomed to disappear from the map of America, thanks to the abandonment of the home government and to the well-concerted blows of England and her American colonies.

The treaty of 1763 consecrated the victories of Great Britain. Her sway extended now over the greater part of North America and of the West Indies.

Mighty, indeed, had been the efforts of these three Unificent nations !

The reign of England, however, was destined to be short-lived. The minds of the colonists had been too sharpened by hard-earned experience not to allure them to the conclusion that the union of their military forces, which had proved so effective against the French and their allies, might be employed in their own deliverance.

Every reader of the history of the United States is familiar with the planting of colonies, along the Atlantic coast, by the English, French, Dutch, and Swedes—with their gradual moving toward the foot of the Alleghanies—with their war of independence—with their organization into a perfected confederacy—with their sliding on the Western slope of the Alleghanies down to the Mississippi—with their march hence to the Rocky Mountains—with their climbing over those vertebræ of the Continent—never stopping, after having absorbed every

intervening territory, until, alighting upon the mountain-tops and then upon the snow-clad peaks, they had nestled cities on the margin of the Pacific ocean.

Resuming the Unification of North America where France and England left it half completed, the United States have steadily advanced in parallel lines from the Eastern shores to those of the West.

Shall they halt in the midst of their extraordinary career? Why should they not drive to the Arctic circles and steer round the Gulf of Mexico? Is it believable that they have made these vast strides across the Continent without any profound thought underlying their movements?

5. To-day, the United States stand geographically acephalous and limbless. They resemble their own caricatures of John Bull with his obese belly flabbing down. Shall they suffer themselves to stay thus cramped and incomplete, when the separate parts of the Continent, bleeding from anarchy and discontent, demand their political connection with the main trunk? The duties of the United States augment in direct ratio of their massive size and of their irresistible prestige. Let them finish promptly the work of unifying North America! Will they remain deaf to the utterances of the seers, resounding back from generation to generation?

America is composed of two continents superposed upon one another: North and South America. They will be treated, accordingly, as two distinct continental organisms. The America of the North is the only continent whose Unity is advocated for the present.

Oceans surround the head and sides of North America. Its feet, right and left, rest upon the broad shoulders of the twin Continent. The island of Trinidad, the southernmost of the larger Antilles, shall form the southern boundary on the right. The left limits will be fixed in the Gulf of Darien, at the mouth of the Atrato; whence follow the course of that river to its source, then cross by a straight line to the head waters of the San Juan, which empties at Chirambira, on the Pacific. To avoid difficulties about confines and the inhabitants, the ceded territory should comprise the valleys of both rivers, between the Western Cordilleras and the ocean. Every piece of land situated above this double southern boundary, as far as the poles, belongs to North America. On account of their greater proximity to our coasts and for their own convenience, the Bermudas in the Atlantic and the Sandwich Islands in the Pacific should be moored alongst our Continent.

There is now-a-days such a rapid succession of events that your statements of last become obsolete this, month. To obviate these constantly occurring changes, the date of the 1st January, 1867, is chosen as the fixed point up to which references will be made.

North America may be divided into three parts, namely: Northern, Central, and Southern. The Northern portion is occupied by the Russian, British, and Danish possessions; the Central, by the United States; the Southern, by that continuation of Florida, the archipelago comprising the Bahamas and the Antilles, as also by Mexico, the Central American States, and some provinces belonging to New Granada. United, these countries would measure eight million five hundred thousand square miles.

Here, climates mark their passage from the eternal winters of the Arctic regions to the perpetual summers of the lands bordering on the Equator. Productions blossom or wither in their train. Nature is the grandest, the most fruitful, all self-sufficient.

Fifty-five millions of souls flourish on the bosom of North America.

They appertain to the Caucasian, Mongolian, Ethiopian, and American Indian races. The latter claim to be Aborigines, whilst the rest are by descent European, Asiatic, and African.

A traveller may hear, in passing among groups of this mixed population, the idiom of the Esquimaux and the Indian dialects, the English, the French, Spanish and Italian, the German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian, the Russian and the Chinese.

Paganism prevails among the native tribes; Budhism accompanies the Chinese; Mormonism is hatching at Utah; Rationalism attends the Freethinkers; the masses profess the Christian religion.

The independent governments of the Continent are administered by nine presidents, one emperor, one king, besides a number of aboriginal chiefs. The colonies pay obedience to two emperors, three kings, and two queens. This statement shows the existence of eighteen distinct sovereignties.

6. Does any country on the face of this earthy crust present equal advantages of configuration, broadening to three thousand miles and tapering, through well-managed gradations, to forty miles? Can any region occupy a more central position, floating like a buoy fastened by the hand of a god in the midst of the oceans? Could

any land combine a greater perfection of organic life, whether it concerns the completeness of its parts, the compactness of its frame, the regularity and extent of its circulatory apparatus, or the wiry construction of its nervous system? North America reunites in the highest degree the conditions prescribed for a healthy physical state: a cool head, a well-fed stomach, and warm feet.

Is such a body of inseparable lands forever condemned to political isolation from its centre? No! American nations, replace this manyness of sovereignties by oneness of administration. Look at the economy and little complexity of the process! The federative form of the United States government solicits, far from repelling, fresh companionship of States. One elective President may easily govern fifty States. Take an introspective view of your new relations and judge for yourselves of their possibility.

Freedom, extended to all subjects of human import and limited only by the equal rights of your neighbors, must be the corner-stone of the Unificial edifice.

The fundamental sameness of religions will be a guarantee that consciences need not borrow alarm.

Popularized by universal education, the etymological similarities of our continental languages will facilitate the transactions of private and public business.

The convergence of interests will be encouraged by the contrast of productions from the various zones as well as by the diversity of industrial pursuits.

The juxtaposition of races, compelled to live side by side or to hold *rapports* of more or less frequency, will impart larger ideas of Christian toleration; it will inspire an exalted conception of humanitarian brotherhood, by the influence of which natural differences of

whatever kind will meet a mutual respect, as those of height, color, weight, intellect, appetite, do in the ordinary course of life among people of the same race, language, and religion.

May these prospects of stability and harmony redeem the sacrifices made on the altar of local attachments and national prejudices!

7. What influences are capable of arresting the expansion of our territory and the germination of these benign principles?

The European powers inimical to this government—for some reasons common to the three, and for others peculiar to each—are England, France, and Spain.

The United States are corseted by British possessions, forts, commercial outposts and dépots. England commands the mouths of the St. Lawrence, the Bahama channels, where Nassau, of blockade memory, is secreted, the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico and of the Caribbean sea. From her ports on the Pacific, connected through numberless islands and Australia with her East India possessions, would sally a fleet ready to pounce upon our merchantmen.

In case of war, France, Spain, and England, allied, could hermetically close the Southern American waters against the vessels of the United States. If the tripartite treaty of 1862 had been maintained and carried out, the policy of intervention which it inaugurated might have sensibly affected the turn of affairs, both with respect to Mexico and the Southern States in rebellion. Shall we profit by our past experience? Shut our eyes to this sad evidence of dangers?

Moreover, the West India Islands form a natural complement of our geographical system. Their position is commanding at once the broad ocean and land-locked seas. American trade requires American ports, and the navy needs American stations for rendezvous and for protection. How long shall they be deprived of both?

Whilst the West India group of isles are pointed as useful to the increasing exigencies of American commerce and as indispensable to our national security, the countries that rise opposite their in-gulf sides are attracting, like a horn of universal plenty, the attention of the most enterprising nations.

The territory from the Rio Grande to the Atrato—containing Mexico, Yucatan, Guatemala, Balize, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and the Colombian States of Panama and Cauca—is fast becoming what nature made it, the most valuable piece of ground of the whole globe.

The importance of these different States is derived, first, from the native richness of their soil, pregnant with the precious metals and luxuriant with tropical vegetation, and, secondly, from their exceptional structure and middle situation, which adapt them so providentially to the transit of passengers and traffic going to or coming from the Atlantic and Pacific basins. More than two-thirds of the population of the world must seek a passage at the points where the American peninsula offers the route shortest, speediest, and safest. Not less than twenty-six routes, including nineteen ship-canals and seven railways, have already been explored and carefully surveyed by citizens of the United States, of England, and of France. The newspapers relate every

week the intrigues fomented by foreign agents to get possession, at any price, of the Panama railroad, and of other leading routes. Why are you constructing the Pacific railroad across American territory, where the greatest breadth of the Continent exists, if not to secure a share of this immense commerce, which will tax to their utmost capacity all the projected channels of oceanic intercommunication?

Wake up then, statesmen of America, seize the coveted prize, lest strangers, more alert than you have shown yourselves, get forcible possession of it!

8. How have the United States arrived at their present aggregate? By successive acquisitions, effected through grants, purchase, exchange, cession, treaty, compensation, colonization, conquest, annexation. Let us examine which of these means can be used to gain possession of the non-unified territories, and what new methods may suggest themselves.

Russian America should be acquired by purchase.

When this last bargain is consummated, it will be next to impossible to allow the intervening territory of British Columbia to break the continuity of our Pacific dominions. It might be ceded as a settlement of claims for the depredations of rebel cruisers armed in English ports.

Since the Territory of Hudson's Bay Company is offered for sale, some of our millionaires ought to associate themselves for the purpose of buying it on their own account, and make a present of it to the United States. Liberty, our bride, is worth the offering.

Without presuming too little of the disinterestedness of the Danes, it is not impertinent to guess they will gladly exchange Danish America for dollars and cents.

Congress, by a bill or resolution, should direct the State department to commence negotiations with the British government about authorizing the provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward, to submit to their respective constituencies the question whether they would deem it their best interest to join their fortunes to those of their American neighbors.

England, Spain, France, Holland, Sweden, and Denmark, will be likewise approached touching our intention to acquire from them the right of possession of their several property in the West Indian Archipelago.

Our government might arrange with Mexico a rectification of frontiers on the South, embracing Lower California and the territory—between the Sierra Madre and the Gulf of California, from the river Gila to Mazatlan inclusively—comprised in the states of Sonora and Sinaloa.

A friendly correspondence ought to be pursued between our State department and the independent governments of Mexico, of Central America, of Colombia, of Hayti, and of the Sandwich Islands.

To the patriotism and intelligence of these States address strong appeals.

Among other arguments in favor of the scheme urge upon them our views of a continental organization, in which their autonomous revendications would find an

adequate representation in their local governments, whose preservation is assured and whose authority must be respected.

Before their dazzled eyes, display sunbursts of the glory attainable only by America integralized: their State pride and their self-interest will be heightened to an undreamt degree of power, of wealth, and of grandeur.

What has been accomplished thus far through instinctive force, we must undertake to do for the future as a clear matter of business—using to that effect the same scientific accuracy and rules that presided at the preliminary surveys, contracts, and actual construction of the Pacific railway.

Enlightened by events of a recent date, and mindful of future complications, the Congress should solemnly declare, that the United States Government forbids foreign governments and their subjects henceforward to colonize any portion of North America—to build therein any public highway that may cause detriment to our interests and disturb our peace—to erect, North or South, any government hostile in form or design to our republican institutions—without obtaining beforehand the concurrence and assent of the American people.

This manifesto, sweeping in its scope, definite in its terms, permanent in its character, would supersede the anterior declaration of president Monroe, susceptible of so many conflicting interpretations. Recognized the world over as the American doctrine of continental integrity, it would be equivalent to a formal protectorate over the neighboring nations, or to an offensive and defensive alliance with them. Its formidable simplicity renders it preferable to either of these measures.

Individual initiative probably will not wait for governmental action, and will direct currents of colonization, as in the case of Texas and Kansas, toward the key-points of the Unifiable portions of the Continent.

War, blood-stained war, is repugnant to the true policy of the nineteenth century. If any antagonistic power should provoke the United States to mortal conflict, an army of a million of men should overrun the hostile country and occupy it, whilst a fleet of men-of-war should be despatched to blockade every port, so that the war be terminated at the earliest moment, upon the sole but facile condition that the invaded country attach an additional star to our brilliant constellation of States.

9. This question of Unification, so vast and so many-sided, concerns the entire American people. The press, meetings and conventions, should quicken the Legislative and Executive departments into an earnest compliance with the popular orders. Resolutions of the following tenor might be introduced, discussed, and passed :

In the name of Democracy that insures the hereditary control of the people over their own destinies ;

In the name of Liberty, which leads Progress, spreads Education, and decrees Equality before the law ;

In the name of Solidarity, whose dogma inculcates an inner and outer spirit of Fraternity among all the children of the earth ;

The People of the United States of America, in convention assembled,

Resolve, That, believing themselves invested with the sacred duty of engrafting these great principles upon all parts of their continental home, they invite all the inhabitants thereof to hasten forward and contribute their just share in the performance of the noble task which thousands of years of cumulative history have imposed upon every citizen of North America;

Resolve, That they promise their new allies ample protection for all their rights, since they welcome them to the Union as the equals of their confederate brothers;

Resolve, That, for the purpose of forwarding the good work, they will lend their moral influence, and—if need be—material aid, to any nation or colony that may decide to ask for them.

10. Unifiers of America, do you think God has lifted this Continent out of the depths of the sea for idle designs? Do you not see it was to furnish a worthy example of territorial wholeness and of popular government to the less happy nations of the globe?

Unifiers! Let us organize legions of believers in our dutiful programme! Let us combine to achieve a grand, matchless, Unity of North America!

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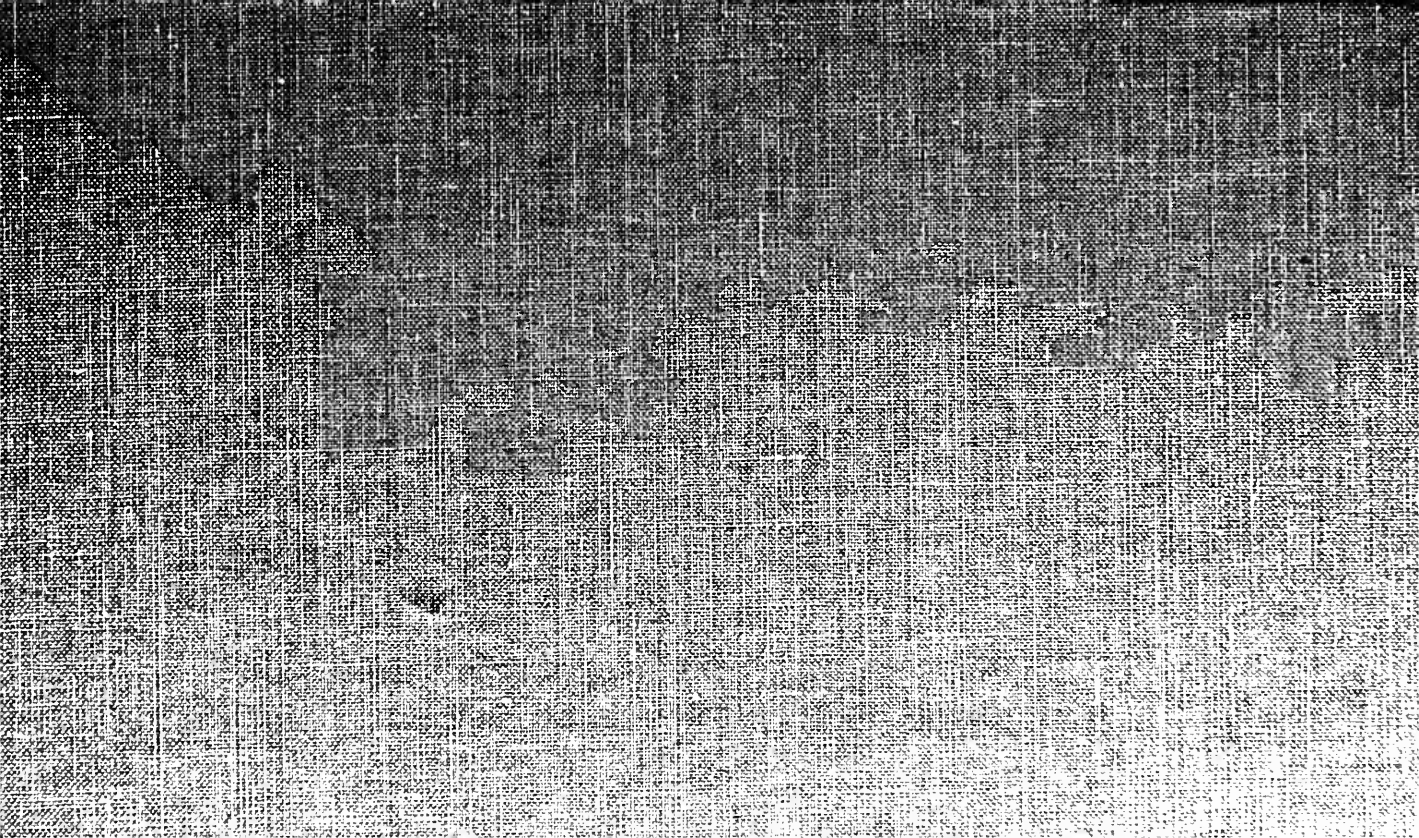
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